

CLAIMS

1. A broadcast router, comprising:

at least one chassis, adapted for a first, a second, and a third configuration,
5 the first configuration including a plurality of input cards and no output cards, the
second configuration including a plurality of output cards and no input cards, and the
third configuration including a plurality of input and output cards.

2. The broadcast router of claim 1, wherein the plurality of input cards are
10 for initially receiving data into the broadcast router, and the first configuration of the at
least one chassis further includes an expansion card for respectively receiving the
data from the plurality of input cards and arranging the data for transfer.

3. The broadcast router of claim 2, wherein the expansion card provides
15 support protocols to change input/output assignments of the data.

4. The broadcast router of claim 2, wherein the expansion card arranges
the data using time division multiplexing.

20 5. The broadcast router of claim 2, wherein the expansion card has a
bandwidth amount capable of supporting both the first configuration and the second
configuration.

6. The broadcast router of claim 2, wherein the expansion card has a bandwidth capable of being modified to support any one of the first configuration, the second configuration, and the third configuration.

5 7. The broadcast router of claim 1, further comprising at least one other chassis adapted for the first, second, and third configuration, and wherein the second configuration of the at least one chassis further includes a matrix card for receiving the data from the at least one other chassis and for routing the data to appropriate ones of the plurality of output cards

10 8. The broadcast router of claim 7, wherein the plurality of output cards are for respectively receiving the data from the matrix card and for outputting the data external to the broadcast router.

15 9. The broadcast router of claim 7, wherein the matrix card provides support protocols to change input/output assignments of the data

10. The broadcast router of claim 7, wherein the matrix card conditions the data prior to outputting the data.

20 11. The broadcast router of claim 1, wherein the at least one chassis further comprises a control card for providing support protocols to change input/output assignments of the data.

12. The broadcast router of claim 1, further comprising at least one other chassis adapted for the first, the second, and the third configuration, and wherein the at least one other chassis is configured in the second configuration when the at least one chassis is configured in the first configuration.

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13. The broadcast router of claim 1, further comprising at least one other chassis adapted for the first, the second, and the third configuration, and wherein the at least one other chassis is configured in the first configuration when the at least one chassis is configured in the second configuration.

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